

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

/107 W

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R 280845Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4349

UNCLAS KUWAIT 5393

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG KU

SUBJ: FIRE AT AMINOIL REFINERY

REF: KUWAIT 5378

1. AN EXPLOSION AND FIRE AT AMINOIL REFINERY IN MINA ABDULLA IS FEARED TO HAVE CAUSED APPROXIMATELY \$1.75 MILLION IN DAMAGE. FIRE OCCURRED DURING LATE MORNING AND EARLY AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 27, LESS THAN WEEK AFTER ANOTHER, LESS SERIOUS FIRE AT REFINERY. THE FIRE CAUSED HEAVY DAMAGE IN THE DESULFURIZATION UNIT, BUT OTHER MAJOR VESSELS APPARENTLY ESCAPED HARM. THE EXACT CAUSE OF THE DAMAGE IS UNKNOWN, BUT A RUPTURED TUBE IN A BANK OF COOLING TUBES IN A HEAT EXCHANGER IS THOUGHT TO HAVE ALLOWED GAS TO ESCAPE LEADING TO THE EXPLOSION. NO ONE WAS HURT.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED FIRE WITH SENIOR AMINOIL OFFICIAL WHO RULED OUT SABOTAGE UNEQUIVOCALLY. HE SAID REFINERY CAN STILL OPERATE, BUT WITHOUT DESULFURIZATION UNIT. HE WAS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT AMINOIL WOULD BE ABLE TO SELL ITS HEAVY CRUDE OIL EVEN IF REFINED IF IT WAS NOT DESUL-
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FURIZED ALSO. THEREFORE, DEPENDING ON MARKET CONDITIONS

AND HOW LONG IT TAKES TO REPAIR DESULFURIZATION UNIT,
AMINION MAY BE FORCED TO REDUCE CRUDE PRODUCTION WHICH AT
TIME OF FIRE HAD BEEN AROUND 80,000 BPD.
STOLTZFUS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: ENRG, KU, AMINOIL, ARABIAN OIL COMPANY
To: STATE
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